

STATE OF NEW YORK LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

Memorial Resolution

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on Sunday May 31, 2015, removed from our midst one of his own, Mrs. Mozella Richardson, in whose death the community has lost a pioneer in the educational field, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson was born in Eastman, Georgia on July 3rd, 1928, where she attended grammar school then relocated to Rockhill, South Carolina where she graduated from Friendship Baptist Boarding School at the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson accepted Christ at an early age; after migrating from the south to Buffalo, New York in 1944, she became a member of Macedonia Baptist Church. After transitioning her membership to New Hope Baptist Church, she then became a member of Delaware Baptist Church where she attended until her recent illness; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson developed a passion for education at an early age, she reentered High School upon relocating to Buffalo, New York and graduated from Fosdick Masten Park High School. She went on to receive an Associates Degree from Erie Community College, then attended Buffalo State College and Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She retired from the Community Action Organization of Erie County (CAO) where she served 25 years as manager of the Ellicott CAO Center; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson's involvement in the educational system dates back to the early 1960's, she became President of the Parent Teacher Association and gained national attention for her advocacy and commitment to the education of children. As a result, she was hired as one of the first Teacher's Aides in the Buffalo Public School system; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Mrs. Mozella Richardson ran a successful campaign to become an inaugural member of Buffalo's first elected School Board, she was sworn in as representative for the Central District in 1974. Mrs. Richardson went on to serve four terms as Board President and was instrumental in developing community institutions such as the School of Music and Performing Arts, Martin Luther King Community School and Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson had a strong belief in the power of parental involvement in all aspects of their children's education, her philosophy for a successful educational program was for parents and educators to be partners in the process. Her legacy of parental involvement will always be remembered in the educational community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mozella Richardson was affectionately known as "Moe" by her loved ones, she married Mr. Herbert L. Richardson on September 8th, 1951, and was blessed with 10 children Gwendolyn, Anthony, Roberta, Charles, Dennis, Juanita, Meredith, Richard, Michael, and Kimberly, as well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces. "Moe's" life of love and memories will forever be rehearsed in the hearts of her friends and family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of Mrs. Mozella "Moe" Richardson, and pauses in its deliberations to honor and celebrate her life, her love and her legacy. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature offers our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathy to Mrs. Mozella "Moe" Richardson's family, friends, colleagues and church members on the loss of this exceptional woman who remains well loved by many.

Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams
1st District Legislator

Hon. Betty Jean Grant
2nd District Legislator